(b) to (d). The IBM Review Committee recommended in 1979 opening of regional offices at Bhubaneshwar, Ahmedabad and a Zonal Office at Calcutta. Due to financial constraints, Govt. is not in a position as of present to set up new Regional Office of IBM, in any State including Karnataka.

Additional Channels for Paging Services

3452. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is presently faced the demand for additional frequency channels from operators of paging services;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any new paging code to reduce the pressure on frequency demand; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof and the extent to which it will increase the number of subscribers within existing frequencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The use of high speed protocols like ERMES & FLEX is under consideration.

(c) Brief features of proposed high speed protocols are:

(i) ERMES:

(1) European standard

(2) Frequency band of operation: 169.4—169.8MHz

(3) Channel spacing: 25 KHz

(4) Speed of operation: 6.25 Kbps

(5) If only Numeric Subscribers: Capacity 3,81,000.

(6) If only Alpha Numeric Subscribers: Capacity 1,11,000

(ii) FLEX

(1) Proprietary of Motorola, U.S.A.

(2) Frequency band of operation: 929.0—932.0 MHz: 138.0—174.0 HMHz

(3) Channel spacing : 25 KHz

(4) Speed of operation: 1.6, 3.2 & 6.4 Kbps

(5) If only Numeric subscribers: capacity: 6,35,000 at 6.4 kbps.

(6) If only Alpha Numeric subscribers: capacity 1,24,000 at 6.4 Kbps.

The suppliers of High Speed Protocols claim that a figure of 3 to 4 times capacity (No. of subscribers) increase over the existing system of POCSAG.

Telecom Tenders in Calcutta

3453. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies who received the telecom tender in Calcutta Metropolitan jurisdiction during 1995-96;

(b) whether any objection has been raised by the State of West Bengal; and

(c) whether Chief Minister of the State attended the opening function of Modi Group Cellular Services launching commercial Cellular Mobile Service in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The licences to operate Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Calcutta Metro City were awarded to M/s. Modi Telstra and M/s. Usha Martin Telecom in November, 1994.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The Chief Minister of West Bengal did not attend the opening function of Modi Group Cellular Services launching commercial Cellular Mobile Service in Calcutta on 23rd August, 1995. However, it is reported by M/s. Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd. that Hon'ble Chief Minister was present during the launch of trial run of the network which was conducted on 31st July, 1995.

Old Age Homes

3454. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the number of old persons kept in the Old Age Homes of Delhi and the facilities being provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : The number of Sr. citizens kept in the three Sr. Citizens Homes, run by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi are as under:—

Home for Old & Infirm Persons	:	37
Dr. Hedgevar Sr. Citizens Home, Kalkaji	:	10
Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sadan Green Park	:	11
		58

In these Homes, the Department provides free lodging, boarding, clothing and bedding, casework and counselling services, medical care and recreational facilities, helpers to assist the bed-ridden or incapaciated inmates to perform their daily routine.

Interconnect Agreements

3455. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular operators have objected to the draft interconnect agreements of the Government;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted delay in roll-out of the cellular services in 17 regions of the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government have agreed to make the amendments in the above draft agreements;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be amended;

(e) whether all the concerned authorities have been consulted before taking any final decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The licences awarded to the operators of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service do not provide for any Interconnect Agreement. However, for the same of operational clarity, an Interconnect Agreement has been circulated amongst the operators of the service.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The draft interconnect agreement has been prepared after taking the views of concerned authorities in DOT from technical and financial angle and the view of Ministry of Law & Justice.

[Translation]

Setting up of Hostels for SC/ST Students

3456. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have not set up hostel for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry has allocated funds under the said head for other States except Bihar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Union Government propose to allocate funds for Bihar under the said head?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). At present there is no Scheme under which the Union Government sets up hostels for students belonging to SCs/STs. However, the Ministry of Welfare has been implementing four Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Construction of boys and girls hostels for SCs/STs under which 50% Central share is given to the State Governments for construction of hostel buildings.

(c) and (d). Under these Schemes, the State-wise funds are not allocated. Proposals for release of 50% as Central share are sent by the State Governments for setting up hostels for SC/ST students after making a provision in the State Budget of the concerned State to the extent of 50% of the estimate of the construction of the hostels.

(e) So far no proposal has been received from the State Government of Bihar during the current financial year.

[English]

News Bulletins on Doordarshan

3457. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms for telecast of news on all the channels on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the timings of news bulletins on Doordarshan language-wise, category-wise and channel-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Telecast of News on Doordarshan is governed by Programme Code and Advertisement Code of Doordarshan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details are enclosed as *Statement I* and *II*.